

OCTOBER 13, 2022 – EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION

The meeting was called to order at the Empire Township Hall and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rademacher at 7:00 p.m. Upon a roll call, Council members Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher and Clerk Smith were present.

President Davis called a moment of silence in memory of former Village Trustee Beryl Skrocki.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Davis added Union St. and Drainage District as #2 & #3 under New Business.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Motion by Bacon, support by Barr to approve the agenda as amended. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – Glen Doyle commented on the Tree Ordinance and the Mass Gathering Ordinance and suggested legal review. Mary Sharry commented on the Zoning Administrator position. Rod Barnes commented on supporting employees.

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Chase reported on the Personnel Committee meeting. Bacon reported on the Planning Commission meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

GENERATOR FOR WATER SYSTEM – Rademacher reviewed the material contained in the packet including daily & monthly water usage. He fears that without power, water may run out for residents in less than ½ day. There was discussion of a previous comment indicating that the storage tank, depending on amount stored, would provide 2-2 ½ days' supply. Questions included cost for natural gas service, delivery expectancy (1year +), age and condition of current generator, how do similar water systems address a power outage, is an auto vs manual generator a want or a need? Will the current easement for the Well#4 property allow for or require additional area for this generator? There was consensus that this be tabled until further information is obtained.

UNION ST. – Davis indicated that there may be an additional cost to install a drainage area at Union and Michigan streets. **Motion by Barr, support by Palmer to approve having Molon install a green space at this corner, not to exceed 6K. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.** Davis will contact Molon and have them proceed.

DRAINAGE DISTRICT – Davis reported on an email and conversation with the Drain Commissioner who has met with Skip Harriger and John Friend. The Village will need to address how water might be provided and billed, if needed, from a hydrant. There was concern that Village employees should not be listed as a contact nor used for stream diversion. It is not clear what plan or location is being proposed and there is concern that a written maintenance agreement has not been produced. Davis will contact the Drain Commissioner for further information and request a written reply.

NEW BUSINESS

TREE ORDINANCE & TREE PERMIT PROCESS – This ordinance was developed as a response to a grant and maintenance of sidewalks and public right of way. There was consensus that this be returned to the Tree Committee.

WATER RATES – Dye reviewed the documentation she had provided. Discussion included committee input on rates and delay in enacting, if the rate would be retroactive, and the effective date approved by all Council members except Davis, who was absent. There was consensus this be placed on the Regular meeting agenda.

MASS GATHERING ORDINANCE – There were questions about restrictions on private land, and different pricing for outside organizations and no charge for local organizations. Cleanup after events was discussed via a deposit. There was consensus that the ordinance be returned to the Planning Commission with the questions and concerns.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR POSITION – Davis read the letter of resignation from Chris Grobbel and noted that current permits will be addressed by Office Administrator Acton and the position would be advertised.

EZ MART MAILING - Bacon reviewed the material she had provided. There was consensus that communications should be managed by the owners involved in renovations or closing of their business rather than have the Village incur an expense.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Steve Stepanek, Meg Walton and Wendy Peplinski made comments.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – Palmer, Bacon, Smith, and Davis made comments.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:25 p.m.

Derith Smith Empire Village Clerk

These minutes were approved at the October 25, 2022, Regular Council meeting.